

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been canceled, claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-13 have been amended and claims 14-15 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Maemura et al.; claims 5, 6 and 7 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 8-13 were allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claim 6. Accordingly, the rejection noted in the Office Action is moot. The pending claims have also been amended to better correspond with U.S. claim drafting practice and to correct minor cosmetic informalities.

In addition, new claims 14 and 15 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicant submits the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. It is respectfully submitted independent claim 14 is allowable for similar reasons as independent claim 1.

Further, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. It is believed no new matter has been added. Figures 2 and 3 have also been amended to correct minor spelling errors.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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